

## Remarks

### Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by, or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103 as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6, 096,826 (Rabasco). Rabasco discloses the use of certain polymers as additives to paper or coatings for paper to increase the durability of ink jet prints (see for example column 5, line 42-column 5, line 50). As amended, claims 1-6 recite a printing vehicle, not a paper additive. The printing vehicle of the invention may be used on any paper. In contrast, to take advantage of the invention of Rabasco, the user must purchase specialty papers. Furthermore, the polymers disclosed by Rabasco would not be stable under the conditions necessary for these polymers to be used as an ink additive, in contrast to claim 1 of the instant application, which recites that the block co-polymer is stable in the vehicle. Rabasco discloses that his compounds are meant to form insoluble salts with acidic components of ink-jet inks (col. 5, lines 26-41). If the compounds of Rabasco were combined with an ink-jet ink using the techniques of the present invention, they would form an insoluble precipitate and degrade the ink. In addition, the ketal or acetal structure that is disclosed will decompose in aqueous solution, especially under acidic conditions. Ketals are not stable under acidic conditions and easily decompose back to the original carbonyl group (e.g., piperidone) (see, Carey, et al., Advanced Organic Chemistry, Plenum Press, Third Ed., 1990, pp 441-442, attached as Exhibit A). As a result, Applicant submits that claims 1-6 are allowable in view of Rabasco.

Claims 1-6 also stand rejected as anticipated or obvious in view of Japanese Patent Publication 59-189113. An English translation of this publication is enclosed with the attached IDS. Applicant submits that this patent only discusses block co-polymers containing poly(vinyl alcohol) and polyacrylic acid segments. Page 5 of the patent (page 7 of the translation) discloses a variety of suggested uses for such polymers. The publication neither discloses nor suggests the use of such polymers in ink-jet printing vehicles, as recited in claims 1-6 of the present application. As a result, Applicant submits that claims 1-6 are patentable in view of Japanese Patent Publication 59-189113.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1-6 and 8 stand rejected as obvious in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,002,589 (Farley). Applicant submits that Farley discloses a method of producing block co-polymers, including poly(vinyl pyrrolodine) and poly(vinyl alcohol) in combination with a polymer produced from a water-soluble vinyl monomer. Applicant submits that Farley fails to disclose the use of these polymers in thermal ink-jet printing vehicles, as recited in claim 1. Rather, the polymers are disclosed for use as a flocculant. As a result, Applicant submits that claims 1-6 and 8 are patentable in view of Farley.

Information Disclosure Statement

A Supplemental Disclosure Statement containing the translation of Japanese Patent Publication 59-189113 is included herewith.

In light of the foregoing Amendment and Remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the present case is in condition for allowance. A Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Please charge any fees associated with this filing, or apply any credits, to our Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

Respectfully submitted,

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